



TOWN OF MANSFIELD

OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

YSB Advisory Minutes
February 11, 2014
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Chuck Leavens, E O Smith Counselor
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Eileen Griffin, LCSW
Trooper Stephen King
Pat Schneider, Director of Human Services
Kate Bohannon, YSB Social Worker
Jared Redmond, Mansfield Recreation Coordinator
Sonya Poulin, MSW intern

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM by Ethel Mantzaris.

II. Introduction

- Jared Redmond, Mansfield Recreation Coordinator: the Advisory Board approves Jared as a new Board member.

III. Approval of minutes

- January 14, 2014 minutes were approved.

IV. Reports

- Director's Report – Patricia Schneider
 - The budget is being completed.
 - Youth Services is working with Parks and Recreation and the library to create positive youth development programs that would occur throughout the year.
- Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak
 - **Teen Center:** Staff have met with Jared Redmond, Recreation Coordinator, three times this month to discuss collaboration between YSB and youth recreation programs, including the teen center, before and after school programs, and summer camp.

- **Villaris Martial Arts:** Staff facilitated a meeting between Jared Redmond and Ken Caputo of Villari's Martial Arts studio to discuss activities for the teen center and afterschool programming. Ken offered to do a free Hyper Pro class on Fridays afterschool. The program would be open to students in grades sixth through high school. YSB provided the opportunity for two students to attend the one-day camp offered at the Villari's dojo on Martin Luther King Day. This was a successful connection for both students who will be continuing with karate classes at Villari's.
- **Mansfield Library:** Staff initiated collaboration with Judy Staughton, the Mansfield Public Library's children's librarian. Judy will compile a list of books to assist parents in discussing divorce with their children. YSB staff will distribute the list to the schools and share them with families.
- **Staff Training:** Staff received training on the use of universal intakes as preventative tools to identify children at risk for substance abuse, depression, and mental health issues.
- **Suicide and Prevention Training:** Staff has planned a pilot suicide prevention training for Human Services staff and students on February 24th, 2014.
- **Fatherhood Seminar:** Staff attended a daylong seminar to learn ways to increase effectiveness in supporting and engaging fathers. Fathers are often underutilized resources in families and research shows that children's academic, social, and emotional well-being are jeopardized when fathers are absent.
- **Kidtrax:** Staff participated in the final KidTrax training and can now begin incorporating the survey function piece of the software to compile outcome data.
- **X-Block:** In order to meet the growing need, we are considering expanding this program to another day. This in school counseling program, which was a new initiative in October, serves on average 16 students. We continue to receive new referrals for this program.
- **Ongoing Programs:** Parent Support Groups, Grief Group, Cope Groups, Big Friends Mentoring Program and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Groups : These groups continue to meet regularly and provide support and education to a wide range of people in our community.

V. Old Business:

- None

VI. New Business:

- Possible Advisory Board member Jared Redmond
- Collaboration with Parks & Recreation: YSB is looking to increase collaboration with Parks and Recreation and the library and to have a variety of programs utilizing staff from different agencies. The hope is that this will make the youth more aware of what is available for them and to reach youth that we currently are not.

- YSB staff is incorporating mental health screening in the in-school counseling at the middle school

VII. Other:

- High School Transition Group: YSB interns will be creating a group for eighth grade students that we work with to aid them in the transition to high school. They will be utilizing peer natural helpers from E.O. Smith.

VIII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m. February 11, 2014 is the next meeting.